

THE VOLUNTEER

A NEWSLETTER FOR RCRV MEMBERS

July 2011
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Rockwell Collins Retiree Volunteers

If you can dream it,
we can do it.

Mission

Rockwell Collins retirees connecting to identify and support volunteer needs in our community and beyond, while enriching the lives of the volunteers.

Officers

Terry Lamb – Chairman
Keith Sutherland – Vice
Chairman
Barbara Hoffman – Secretary
Arlo Meyer - Treasurer

Committee Chairs

John McDonough –
Community Projects Team
Barbara Hoffman & Cliff Koop –
Recruiting / Retention
Jim Green – Communications
Chuck Wehage – Agency Liaison
Jim Klein – Data Base

Web Site

<http://rcrv.org>
e-mail: contact@rcrv.org

RCRV
927 N. Compton Drive
Hiawatha, Iowa 52233
319-393-9637 (voice mail)



RCRV Meetings

Community Projects Team

The Community Projects Team meets every Thursday at 10:00 in our office in the REACT Center where we discuss future and current projects. Service agency representatives submit new project requests on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. You are always welcome at any of the meetings.

New Retirees Orientation

Informational meetings for new retirees or others interested in becoming active members of RCRV are held at 9 AM on the third Thursday of each month at the REACT Center (927 N. Compton Dr. in Hiawatha). Those of you interested in learning more about RCRV and the many volunteer opportunities we offer are encouraged to attend. ♦

Ten Thousand Dollars Goes To Six Recipients

At the June 15th Board meeting, RCRV gave away \$10,000 through its Charitable Grant Program. Six worthy recipients were selected by an evaluation committee of RCRV members chaired by Bob Clark. Twelve applications were received for this year's grant program, which focused on the use of assistive devices for the disabled. The purpose of the RCRV Charitable Grant Program is to allow RCRV and its members to recognize and reward deserving non-profit organizations in support of the RCRV mission.

Mercy Medical Center was awarded a grant of \$2,000. The RCRV sponsor for this applicant was Don Grimm. This award will support Mercy's On-the-Road Driving Evaluation and Training Program. This program helps individuals with disabilities or injuries regain their independence in common mobility. The program involves testing reaction time, visual screening and computer-based simulator driving. The award will provide help with acquiring the equipment required to perform these tasks.



Christine Beck accepts a \$2,000 check from Chairman Terry Lamb

New Horizons received a grant of \$2,000 from RCRV. Their application was sponsored by RCRV member Cliff Koop. This award will support New Horizon's need for positioning equipment. This equipment is used by the New Horizons residents who are physically and/or intellectually disabled individuals whose use of positioning equipment serves as assistive devices to help with mobility, flexibility, and muscle and skin health.



George Burrows accepted the award on behalf of New Horizons

St. Luke's Health Care Foundation received a grant of \$2,000 for the Witwer Children's Therapy project. John McDonough sponsored this application. St. Luke's WCT will use this grant to help purchase an Alt-Chat machine to be used in the Children's Therapy Speech Therapy Program to assist children with their communication disability.



Sharon Hill accepts a grant for the Witwer Children's Therapy program

Prairie Ridge Elementary School's Level 3 classroom received \$1,000 from RCRV, and Terry Lamb sponsored their application. The need is for students with multiple disabilities to provide them with alternate access stations with docks for iPads and iPods. These access stations will provide these students with the method to access current school based technology.

The College Community School District was given \$1,000 from RCRV to purchase iPads for use by struggling and special needs students, allowing them access to software applications geared to aid students to increase reading fluency, master math facts, etc. Terry Lamb sponsored this application.



Kristin Lucas, special education teacher, accepted two awards on behalf of the College Community School District

Novak Elementary School was awarded a grant of \$2,000; RCRV member Jim Green sponsored this application. The award will be used to purchase Nooks (electronic book readers). These machines will be used in the Linn-Mar PowerPlus program to help their most "at risk" children become more successful, both academically and socially, by utilizing research based reading & math instruction.



Mary Ellen Oglesby, reading teacher, and principal Joe North accept an RCRV grant from Chairman Terry Lamb

The annual RCRV Charitable Grant Program is funded through the Rockwell Collins Charitable Corporation. All active RCRV members are eligible to sponsor an application from a deserving non-profit organization with which the member has become affiliated. The application process for next year's grant program will be advertised in early 2012, and all applicant materials may be found on the RCRV website. ♦

Cliff Koop Honored by Witwer Center

RCRV member Cliff Koop works tirelessly to help non-profit organizations in our community. Recently, Cliff's work was honored by the Witwer Children's Therapy program, receiving their Excellence in Teamwork award. Portions of his citation read as follows:

"Cliff is truly a gift to Witwer Children's Therapy staff and patients. He selflessly, consistently, and tirelessly supports our mission to provide the care we'd like our loved ones to receive. As a member of the

Rockwell Collins Retired Volunteers, Cliff was approached in January 2009 by staff at Witwer Children's Therapy to fabricate equipment for Witwer patients. Since that time he has *saved Witwer patients and families over \$10,000* by building specialized equipment for patients and providing that equipment at or below materials cost.

In 2009, we approached Cliff with a request to build 10 spin boards. Since that time, Cliff has built 111 spin boards in various sizes. Parents reimburse him for the cost of the materials, but Cliff donates all of his time and labor. In addition, most of the time Cliff underestimates his materials costs! Commercially available spin boards cost at least \$140.00. Cliff charges \$35.00 for small boards and \$45.00 for large boards. *Not only has Cliff saved our families thousands of dollars, but the availability of the spin boards expedites our ability to provide intensive treatment which results in improved patient outcomes.*

Cliff does more than build spin boards. He has become our resident "build it guy" when it comes to figuring out a solution to a problem for a child or family. If presented with a drawing or picture, Cliff can build anything.

Cliff is patient, kind and truly loves children. *He treats the patients and staff at Witwer as his number one priority and never says he's too busy.* Without Cliff as a part of our team, we would have much more difficulty providing our patients with equipment to further their therapy goals or improve their level of independence. Cliff truly is a vital part of the team at Witwer Children's Therapy!"

Congratulations, Cliff! Thanks for being a great role model for the rest of us! ♦



28th Annual Governor's Volunteer Awards

Fourteen RCRV volunteers were among the 201 volunteers that received a volunteer award from Governor Terry E. Branstad during a special recognition ceremony on June 24th at Linn-Mar High School in Marion.

Governor Branstad stated, "I am honored to have this opportunity to personally thank this year's award recipients for donating their time and talent to help their fellow Iowans and make a tremendous difference in our state." Iowa is currently ranked second in the nation for its state volunteerism rate.

Congratulations to **Ed Holstrom, Carolyn Holubar, Dick Lenth, Rick Martin, Jack Murphy, Helen Potthoff, and Chuck Scott** for being recognized for outstanding volunteer service to the community during the past year. Each of these individuals was nominated by RCRV.

Seven other RCRV members, **Clarice Hinds, Frank Hinds, Cliff Koop, Marge McChristy, James Wolfe, Claudia Young, and John McDonough** were nominated for recognition through other RSVP stations where they volunteer their time and talents. ♦

RCRV Members Continue to Impress

RCRV volunteers continue to have a major impact on our community. Through mid-June, more than 10,300 volunteer hours have been recorded by 133 RCRV members. The variety of activities that our members are engaged in is amazing! Retirees are creating databases and websites, providing tax assistance, tutoring in the schools and social agencies, providing health insurance advice and assistance, building wheelchair ramps, counseling new business owners, organizing Honor Flights for our WWII veterans, delivering Meals on Wheels, driving patients to their doctor appointments, doing minor

home repairs, serving on advisory committees and boards of directors, and the list goes on and on. We are finding that retirement is enhanced through service to others, and the need for our time and talents is greater than our capacity.

Agencies assign a value of a volunteer at \$21.36 per hour in order to evaluate the impact of volunteers on a community. This means that RCRV members have already added \$220,000 of effort to our community through our volunteer efforts!

If you are not yet an active member of RCRV, we would welcome your involvement. Contact information is on Page 1 of this newsletter. If you are a member, are volunteering and have not yet recorded your hours, please do so through the link at www.rcrv.org. ♦

Construction Season Means Wheelchair Ramps

Once the weather warmed in the spring, the demand for home accessibility also increased. The WRAP coalition, along with RCRV volunteers, went into action to design and build wheelchair ramps for several deserving families. The work never seems to be done, however, as more and more requests for ramps are processed by Kim Hott of Aging Services and Angie Ehle, coordinator for WRAP.

At the end of June, there were nine ramp requests in queue. At the same time, RCRV volunteers managed to build five new ramps in eight days, along with one removal. The construction teams obviously are working well together, as indicated in the accompanying photos. The designs must be getting better, also, as most projects are completed in only one day with a crew of about eight to ten builders. There are about fifteen RCRV members who regularly participate in many of the ramp builds, and they are

always looking for new talent to come join them. Contact John Wauer, Keith Sutherland, Joe Wells, or Bob Clark to add your name to their notification lists.

The ramp designer is a key element in making a project run smoothly, and WRAP is looking for a few more volunteers to be trained in how to design a wheelchair ramp properly. If you enjoy carpentry, design work and logistics planning, please consider talking with Angie Ehle about becoming a designer for WRAP. Your first project is waiting for you! ♦



Another successful WRAP project completed in June!



Every good carpenter needs a ball cap!

RCRV Bylaws Updated

At its meeting on June 20, 2011 the RCRV Board of Directors voted to approve revised Bylaws of the Corporation. The Bylaws were adjusted to better define the roles of the officers and committee chairpersons. The Treasurer position was combined with the Secretary position, and the makeup of the Executive Committee was slightly changed. Other minor edits were also made. The newly revised Bylaws may be viewed on the RCRV website, www.rcrv.org. ♦

“We All Get By with a Little Help from Our Friends”

By Carol Luth

How true the Beatle’s song rings when I think of all of the ways the Rockwell Collins Retiree Volunteer Program has helped our small nonprofit grow over these past three years. In the fall of 2008, Cedar Rapids Vision In Motion opened our doors to provide vision rehabilitation services to individuals of all ages. Without the relationships and partnerships formed with RCRV, we would not have been able to accomplish as much as we have.

Here are just some of the ways you all have helped us serve 876 unduplicated clients this past year:

- When we first opened our doors, Arlo Meyer and others stepped up to help make therapy tables, balance stools, and benches: all vital to the delivery of our therapies.
- Other Rockwell retirees helped to fashion pill bottle holders for individuals with low vision who were using closed circuit TV’s and needed to hold their medication bottles in a stationary position in order to accurately read dosage and other instructions.
- Once again, the men and women of Rockwell helped to install a low vision training kitchen in the back of the clinic—complete with painting our recycled cabinets.
- When we started a grade-school handwriting program, RCRV made and installed several chalk boards for use with our classes.
- When we realized we did not have a hot water heater, Tom Brennom found a plumber to help us out at a very reasonable cost!
- Speaking of plumbing, when we have had leaky faucets and other mishaps, Arlo’s son-in-law and crew have come to our aid in a fast and timely manner.

- When our clinic took a call from a mom with a young child who had a portion of her brain removed due to seizures, Arlo designed a mirror box to mimic the function of her left hand, which was now missing after the surgery.
- Lori Meyer (Arlo’s wife) has even gotten called to duty. She, along with her daughter, has sewn bean bags that we used at a training conference as well as with our vision rehab clients on a daily basis.
- Lori even knitted a parcel of dolls for our other program, Eye Care Kenya. This past January, she brought joy to hundreds of Kenyan children with her hand knitted treats.
- Currently, Dick Kittrell is helping one of our young patients with wobble switches and other assistive device designs. He is amazing all of us with his problem solving and practical application to help improve this young child’s ability to interact.

Finally, RCRV has been very generous to our organization through the charitable grants program. We have been very fortunate to have received two grants. Our first grant enabled us to serve low income seniors in need of assistive vision devices but who did not have the ability to afford the equipment.

This past year, we were very honored to receive the *Les Haerther* grant. We have been working with children at Four Oaks and the Prairie Edge school to provide visagraph testing. This testing helps to determine how to best address reading issues if eye tracking/fluency issues are in question. This project continues and we are so pleased to have the ability to work with Four Oaks and their children.

There are so many ways RCRV has impacted our organization and our clients. From all of us here, thank you, thank you for your friendship and your willingness to always step up to address a need. You all are an amazing group. ♦



A sampling of the 200+ dolls knitted by Lori Meyer for Vision In Motion

RCRV Welcomes New Members

RCRV is very happy to welcome the opportunities through RCRV that will help make their retirement rewarding.

Chuck DeBlicek
Jan Frasher
Carol Henning
Dave Knute
Shirley Lamb
Don Leonhart
Merril Ludvigson
Sally Olsen
Charlie Ong
Elaine Orcutt
Lynette Passman
Peg Toms
Jim Wittnebel
Dan Zillman

If you know of a recent retiree who is not on this list, invite him/her to check out the benefits of membership in RCRV! ♦